



# Branching Out

August 28, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

## **TREE meetings:**

September 17 Meeting: Northumberland County Library in Heathsville from 11 to 2pm. Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeff Kirwin, author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*.

The Winter meeting will be at Friends of the Rappahannock. Details coming soon!

Start thinking of nominations for officers. It is certainly OK to nominate yourself! Next spring I will have been president for 2 years, and I think it is fair to give some else a chance

## **Local Events:**

**Saturday, September 19**

**Virginia Coastal Waterways**

**Shoreline Clean-up at Belle Isle State Park 9 am to noon**

Help clean up the shoreline at Belle Isle during this state-wide event. Walk along the shore or venture into the marshes by canoe or kayak. A limited number are available at the park or bring your own. All participants will receive a certificate signed by Governor Timothy Kaine.

Refreshments, gloves, and trash bags provided. This event is also part of National Trails Day.

We know there are more events out there! Send your events to [charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov) for inclusion in the newsletter.

## **Other Events:**

**Project Learning Tree Workshop**

***October 23rd, 9am-4pm, Norfolk Botanical Garden***

[www.cnr.vt.edu/plt/](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/plt/)

Bring the forest into the classroom with Project Learning Tree activities! With topics ranging from forests, wildlife, and water, to community planning, waste-management and energy, PLT is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad. PLT strengthens their critical thinking, team building, and problem solving skills. The 402-page PLT Activity Guide contains 96 hands-on activities for PreK-8, and is correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning.

The workshop is free; registration required by October 2nd to Holly Carson at [holly.carson@norfolk.gov](mailto:holly.carson@norfolk.gov) or 441-1347

### **International Year of Planet Earth Photography Contest**

The theme of the International Year of Planet Earth 2009 Photo Contest is Exploring Earth Science Around the World. Entrants are encouraged to submit photos that show people engaged in Earth science exploration in the natural environment of their part of the world. The deadline for submission is October 16, 2009.

<http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/iypephotocontest/index.html>

## **Free Resources and other Cool Stuff**

### **Why Do We Explore - Online**

Join the College of Exploration and NOAA's Ocean Explorer for the free online teacher workshop, Why Do We Explore, October 5-16, 2009. This is the second workshop in a series of teacher professional development opportunities focused around NOAA's new ship, the Okeanos Explorer. Scientific keynote presenters and education facilitators will work with participants to delve into the benefits of ocean exploration targeting climate change, energy, human health and ocean health. Interact with scientists, converse and share classroom applications with other educators, and find a wealth of multimedia resources. The workshop will introduce the first in a series of Leader's Guides for Classroom Explorers Why Do We Explore? with associated exploration lessons and hands-on activities. The workshop will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

<http://www.coexploration.org/oe/>

### **Ocean Picture of the Day**

The Ocean Project will maintain an Ocean Picture of the Day service for world citizens to show and profess their affection for the ocean. They need contributions from around the world with a picture and caption as to what emotions it evokes in you or how the picture makes you feel. An example posting is on-line; to contribute, digitize your favorite ocean-themed photograph (to which you have copyright) as a JPEG- or PNG-formatted image, and upload it using the Ocean Picture of the Day form. The service will start on September 1, 2009.

<http://theoceanproject.org/opod/index.php?date=2009-01-09>

### **LandScope America**

LandScope America is a collaborative project of NatureServe and the National Geographic Society. This website is meant to be an online resource for the land-protection community and the public. The site brings together maps, data, photography, and information about the environment from a variety of sources and presents them in dynamic and accessible formats. The goal is to inspire and inform collaborative place-based conservation in the U.S. by increasing the pace and effectiveness of land-protection investments in every state. The website is up and running as a beta version - they would appreciate feedback.

<http://www.landscape.org/>

### **Classroom and Field Activity Resources**

This website from the University of Florida Sea Grant hosts activities which have been created by or suggested by Florida marine educators. Topics include aquarium maintenance and activities, field sampling, and much more. While you're on the website, check out all the links to other materials and information, including marine debris, sea oats, educator slideshows and activities, and much more. <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/Sea/activities.html>

### **ConserveOnline**

ConserveOnline is an online public library, created and maintained by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with other conservation organizations. The library makes conservation tools, techniques, and experience available to a broad community of conservation practitioners.

ConserveOnline offers an open forum for sharing successes and failures, and for connecting scientific research with field-based conservation practice. They welcome anyone with documents, data, maps, or images relevant to the science and practice of conservation to make these resources publicly available through ConserveOnline, and to share their expertise through the discussion groups. <http://conserveonline.org/>

### **End of the Line**

The End of the Line is a documentary film highlighting the impact of overfishing on the oceans. It examines the imminent extinction of bluefin tuna, brought on by increasing western demand for sushi; the impact on marine life resulting in huge overpopulation of jellyfish; and implications of a future world with no fish. The website hosts the cinema trailer and links to short episodes that you can view online, expected screening dates, and more. <http://endoftheline.com/>

### **Introduction to Geology**

This undergraduate level course offered as part of MIT's OpenCourseWare Initiative offers an Introduction to Geology. The materials include readings, lecture notes, and more. The course introduces major minerals and rock types, rock-forming processes, and time scales; temperatures, pressures, compositions, structure of the Earth, and measurement techniques; geologic structures and relationships observable in the field; sediment movement and landform development by moving water, wind, and ice; crustal processes; and planetary evolution in terms of global plate tectonics with an emphasis on ductile and brittle processes.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Earth--Atmospheric--and-Planetary-Sciences/12-001Spring-2008/CourseHome/index.htm>

### **Science is Fun!**

The Committee on Science and Technology is responsible for overseeing research and development programs and includes all non-defense federal scientific research and development at a number of federal agencies. Their Science is Fun! website includes sections on wildlife games, environmental science games, science fair projects, and much more. Links from the website include the Annals of Improbable Research, The Yuckiest Site on the Internet, Bad Astronomy, and more, along with more conventional game and information websites. Check this one out.

[http://science.house.gov/resources/science\\_fun.shtml](http://science.house.gov/resources/science_fun.shtml)

### **Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has posted simulations of sea-level rise impacts for several coastal estuaries online on this website. The simulations are the product of the landscape-change model which uses existing wetland, land use, and elevation data combined with local information on subsidence, accretion, and other factors, along with a variety of projections of sea level rise to predict the effect of 45 different sea-level rise scenarios on coastal marshes and shorelines. The online tool, SLAMM-View, allows users to display the results for two time periods simultaneously. By viewing the two maps, users can readily see predicted changes in marshes and shorelines at

25-year or greater intervals (to the year 2100). Simulations are posted for select estuaries; additional simulations will be posted for other areas including National Wildlife Refuges. The website also offers a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of changes in sea level during and since the last Ice Age. <http://www.fws.gov/slamm/>

## **Resources and Courses with a Cost:**

### **EETAP Fall Courses - Online**

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) offer the following online summer courses:

- *Fundamentals of Environmental Education*, September 8-November 25, 2009
- *Making EE Relevant for Culturally Diverse Audiences*, September 8-November 13, 2009.
- *Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation*, September 7-December 4, 2009
- *Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation*, September 22-November 21, 2009

Check the website for availability and registration deadlines.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/index.aspx>

## **Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:**

### **New website to register your volunteer projects**

President Obama has recently unveiled an initiative calling on all Americans to help in our nation's recovery by volunteering in their communities this summer. The President's call to summer service launches United We Serve, a sustained effort to expand the size and impact of volunteer efforts in addressing tough challenges facing the nation.

To make it easy for Americans to get involved, the President is urging Americans to visit [Serve.gov](http://www.Serve.gov). Visitors to [Serve.gov](http://www.Serve.gov) can type in their zip code to find local volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers by [registering their organization's projects](#), or get [ideas for creating their own projects](#) with friends, families, and neighbors. Plan a project, join a project and register your project at [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov).

## **Jobs**

### **CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN VACANCY**

The Lord Fairfax Soil & Water Conservation District headquartered in Strasburg in Shenandoah County, VA, is seeking a full-time Conservation Technician, with Natural Resource/Agriculture associate's degree or higher and some agricultural experience desirable. Position is funded through December 2010, with possibility of extension. Responsibilities will include farmer contact, promotional efforts regarding Chesapeake Bay non-point nutrient reduction goals and the writing of contracts for the installation of related agricultural Best Management Practices. Work will be assigned within Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah and/or Warren Counties. Potential candidate must require only minimal training, have knowledge of computers and Microsoft programs, be a self-starter and be willing to work in a team environment. Must have excellent communications and organizational skills. Pay level will be commensurate with knowledge and experience. Health,

retirement and leave benefits provided. Valid Virginia driver's license, vehicle, liability insurance and background check required. Work will require use of employee's own vehicle. Work related mileage will be reimbursed at State rate. Please send a resume with two references and a letter describing your interest in the position to:

**LFSWCD, 722-B East Queen Street, Strasburg, VA 22657. For further information, please call 540.465.2424, ext. 3. The District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications will be accepted through September 21, 2009.**

### **Full-time Position Available: Teacher-Naturalist**

Irvine Nature Center is looking for an experienced naturalist to join the Center's education staff. Candidates should have significant experience in designing and leading environmental education programs for all audiences and should possess a strong knowledge of Maryland's plants, animals and ecosystems. This is not an entry-level position; in addition to a natural history and education background, administrative and supervisory experience is preferred.

#### **Areas of Responsibility:**

##### ***School Programs***

- ❖ Design and lead school field trips and classroom outreach programs
- ❖ Lead courses and workshops for teachers
- ❖ Periodic revision of curriculum and teaching materials

##### ***Public Programs***

- ❖ Design and lead Summer Nature Camp sessions for all ages
- ❖ Lead programs for scouts, afterschool groups and nature birthday parties
- ❖ Lead outreach programs for libraries, senior centers and other community organizations
- ❖ Plan and lead programs, courses and workshops for adults, families and children

##### ***Volunteers & Interns***

- ❖ Assist with volunteer recruitment, training & supervision
- ❖ Hire, train and supervise student naturalist volunteers and interns

##### ***Other***

- ❖ Assist with implementation of education strategic plan and new program development
- ❖ Share in care of Center's live animals
- ❖ Contribute to quarterly newsletter
- ❖ Assist with special events
- ❖ Help with planning & design of educational exhibits
- ❖ Help maintain Nature Center's trails and gardens
- ❖ Respond to public requests for information

#### **To qualify, applicant must have:**

- ❖ Bachelor's degree in natural science or education, advanced degree preferred

- ❖ Minimum of five years environmental education program experience
- ❖ Strong knowledge of local natural history
- ❖ Excellent oral and written communication skills
- ❖ Leadership and supervisory experience, plus organizational and time management skills

**Salary:** Commensurate with experience

**To Apply:** Mail, email or fax a cover letter and resume to Irvine Nature Center, Attn: Robert Mardiney

11201 Garrison Forest Road  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

443-738-9200 (voice)

410-902-8210 (fax)

Email: [mardineyr@explorenature.org](mailto:mardineyr@explorenature.org)

Website: [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org)

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to [charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov)

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact [faye.andrasko@va.nacdnet.net](mailto:faye.andrasko@va.nacdnet.net)